

No, last year's Lansky isn't on the top 250 list, but that picture stands as a teaser, since this paper spun out in a direction I didn't see coming in. Isn't that so often the case?

With each passing year I realize more and more what an enormous waste Hollywood has been.

Hundreds of thousands of films produced in the past century, and only a handful of them worth watching. I have been doing searches like "best films of 1980", hoping to be reminded of some old film I haven't seen in a while, but in each year I find only one or two worth watching, if I am lucky.

Sometimes entire years are a pass. This despite some 15,000 feature films being made every year worldwide (before Covid). It is sort of like TV: thousands of channels and nothing is on worth watching.

I just saw a preview of the best upcoming films of 2022 and 2023, and only one looked watchable.

That would be the last one, the Banshees of Inisherin, reuniting Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson from In Bruges. The rest of the trailers were cringe.

So I finally went to IMDB to check out their list of the top 250 feature films of all time, based on viewer ratings. There must be at least 25,000 votes for a film to be included, but the list still looks padded, since Interstellar comes in at #27 with an 8.6 rating. How is that possible? It ranks just above Star Wars at #28. Tell me bots aren't involved here. Interstellar is a total trainwreck in every way from the first frame, and should be rated about 3. Others in that "voted up by CIA bots" include Inception at #13, Coco at #76, Inglourious Basterds at #77, and Citizen Kane at #95.

I counted only about 30 films I would recommend or watch again, which isn't too good since these are supposed to be the best of all time, all rated above 8. A huge number of them I immediately crossed off as obvious war or history propaganda, selling us false narratives. Even some of those I would recommend fall into that category, including The Sound of Music. But since the propaganda there is incidental and fairly subtle, I let it pass. Even the number one film, The Shawshank Redemption, is prison propaganda, meant to scare you straight. Or, to be more accurate, bluff you into absolute compliance. The Godfather and all the other mob movies are history propaganda, since there never was a mafia of that sort. That fiction was invented by J. Edgar Hoover to capture your tax dollars back in the day, and it has only grown since then. See my recent papers on Dillinger and Capone for proof of that. Also see below.

Since I am a Tolkien fan, you might think the LOTR films would be on my list, but they aren't. For me they ruin the books, which are far superior, and I wish I hadn't seen them. I refused to watch the Hobbit films.

Just for fun, I will show you my list of keepers:

12 Angry Men The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly Fight Club The Empire Strikes Back The Matrix It's a Wonderful Life Star Wars Back to the Future Leon Casablanca Rear Window Alien Raiders of the Lost Ark Aliens Singin' in the Rain Return of the Jedi 2001: A Space Odyssey Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind North by Northwest The Sting Die Hard The Truman Show Monty Python and the Holy Grail Jurassic Park Dial M for Murder Blade Runner Ben-Hur Barry Lyndon Jaws Network The Wizard of OZ Groundhog Day The Grapes of Wrath The Sound of Music The Iron Giant Now, admittedly, that list is not without big doses of propaganda, but my feeling is those films justify their budgets despite that. The fun of watching them outweighs any other negative factor. Your mileage may vary, and you may feel that way about some of those I nixed. This is my personal list and I am not pretending it is anything else.

Nor are these the only 34 films I think worth watching. There are many on my list that didn't make the top 250 at IMDB, including several Woody Allen films downlisted right now for reasons I don't have to explain to you. I predict they will rise back up as many of these like Interstellar evaporate. Also many others that we would no doubt find in the next 250, like Room with a View, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Heaven Can Wait, Breaking Away, and Ghostbusters.

I beg you to notice that only one film on my list comes in after the year 2000. Is that really the only film I have liked in the past 22 years? Well, no. We can go to my earlier paper on films, which I have partially updated, where we are reminded that I also liked RED, Jane Eyre (2011), and The Hangover.

Still, it isn't much. Eclectic but very brief.

So let's return to the list at IMDB. At #17, we find Se7en, selling serial killers as real. Of course The Silence of the Lambs at #22 is doing the same thing. The embarrassment of that almost sent our best actor—Anthony Hopkins—into permanent retirement. Fortunately he came back for Howard's End and Remains of the Day; though to be honest, he might as well have retired after that, staining his legacy with crap like Nixon, Alexander, Noah, and Thor. He and Daniel Day Lewis would have been best advised to have hung it up 20 years ago. Proof: Lincoln and Bobby. Like their American comrade Hanks, Lewis and Hopkins have sunk to ever lower levels of propaganda, and they are still sinking.

Speaking of Hanks and fake murderers, we find The Green Mile at #26, also supporting The Shawshank Redemption in prison propaganda. In a similar vein, we find American History X at #38, selling fake neo-nazis, race wars, and prison propaganda. Notice that it was written by David McKenna, supposedly from his own experience in San Diego. You have to laugh, since McKenna was from a rich and connected family, think Terence McKenna\*—probably a cousin. Both guys are obvious spooks, with David McKenna ending up teaching film at Columbia and writing nothing but propaganda, including the film Bully based on the 1993 murder of Bobby Kent—which of course never happened. Compare it to the 1989 Glen Ridge “Our Guys” rapes of four years earlier, which has many of the same points and was probably written by the same team at Langley.

At #54 we find Memento, in which we are supposed to believe two men attacked and killed a woman while she was with her husband. The lesson, ladies? You are never safe, even when with your husband in bed.

At #113, we find LA Confidential, which sells the Men-are-Pigs project in multiple stories. Russell Crowe's character is obsessed with men who abuse women, since his mother was beaten to death by his father. As is the experience of so many of us. But the main point of the movie is to sell the ridiculous idea the LA precinct captain is corrupt and is on the verge of taking over the criminal organization of Mickey Cohen. So this film is salting in that whole fake story from the 1940s one more time, which was written by the same FBI fiction writers who wrote the Al Capone and Bugsy Siegel stories.

Johnny Stompanato also makes an appearance in LA Confidential, making you think he was real, when he was nothing but another agent who did his acting job and then faked his death. Remember, he had a famous scene with fellow actor Sean Connery, pulling a gun on him on set in England. Connery allegedly grabbed it out of his hand. As you do. Stompanato was supposedly stabbed to death by Lana Turner's 14-year-old daughter with a kitchen knife, which also makes no sense. I can't believe anyone ever bought that groaner. And I remind you who Stompanato was with before he bearded Turner:

actress Helene Stanley. So we have a Stanley and a Cohen in the same paragraph here, and we only need a Komnene for the trifecta. I will be told Stanley was only her stage name, and that she was a Freymouth and a Seigert. But as is so often the case, she probably took her stage name from her extended family, since she was a Stanley as well. I looked up her other two grandparents to prove that, but she is completely scrubbed. She has a Findagrave page, but it omits her mother and all other relatives but Stompanato.

If you aren't following me, here is the mugshot of Mickey Cohen from Wikipedia:

See any problems? Where is the side view? Why are his eyes shut? In real life, they would slap him and retake it, telling him to keep his stinking eyes open. And why doesn't his shirt fit? The collar is too tight, isn't it? But I guess that was the only plain, prison-looking shirt they had on set and they were too lazy to find one that fit him. All the other ones were silk. Also, he is prisoner #1518, aces and eights of course. I guess #1188 was considered too obvious. But since Alcatraz only had room for 336 prisoners, why would they have a prisoner number 1518? I guess they retired all previous numbers, like football jerseys, as a nod to good sportsmanship. It would be bad for your self-esteem to share your number with a previous murderer or rapist! And check out his signature:

Another curly girly signature, like we found with Al Capone and Eliot Ness. I joked there that if Capone's name had had an "i" in it, he would have dotted it with a heart, and Cohen almost does that here, as you see. It's pathetic, since Lana Turner's 14-year-old daughter had a manlier signature than that. Do you really think the head of a crime syndicate is going to sign his name like that!

And how about this photo from 1949:

That's from a LIFE magazine photoshoot. Why shouldn't LIFE be photographing this mobster in his closet?

Is he just coming off the golf course there? No, he is coming out of his 1958 murder trial, where I guess he was showing the jury how he could blast out of a sandtrap with his jigger.

Here he is being visited by his wife in prison in 1951. Sure looks like 50's prison clothes to me, boss!

No plexiglas partitions or tables needed back then, just expensive wooden director's chairs. And what prison wife doesn't bring along her camera crew from LIFE wherever she goes?

There's a funny one. How tall is that guy with him? Seven feet tall? No, he is about my size, since Cohen was about 5'3". Meyer Lansky was even shorter, being under 5 feet. Don't believe me about Cohen? Well, let's try again:

That's Tony Fauci territory. So that was fun.

Also remember that Meyer Lansky was never convicted of anything. Fifty years as the mob's accountant, and never convicted of a crime. We are supposed to believe this was because Lansky had sexually embarrassing photos of J. Edgar Hoover. Yeah, and Hoover didn't have the reach to suppress those in the press? C'mon! Lansky supposedly died broke in Miami in 1983. Lansky's grandson is a Rapoport: just one more reason I distrust anyone with that name.

That's Meyer's requisite fake mugshot, shot with raking light—which they don't use—in a hat—which isn't allowed—and seated for the side shot—also not allowed.

There are six of the seven dwarves in a "mafia line-up in 1932" with Lansky in the middle (4th). The tallest one is about 5'4". Lucky Luciano is the third guy.

That's Lansky with a normal sized Jew, his lawyer Moses Polakoff.

And did you know that Meyer Lansky and Lucky Luciano were awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Harry Truman in a secret ceremony 1945? They were, and the Times of Israel is proud of it. We are told Lansky and Luciano copped the award for their work in Operation Husky, in which they funneled information through the Sicilian mafia to Allied troops in Italy during the war. Do you believe that? I don't. It is obvious these guys were given these awards for their work here, faking the mafia for the benefit of the FBI, which manufactured huge budgets to fight them. It was like an Oscar for best actor in a "real-life" drama. The Lansky fiction is still being heavily promoted, see last year's movie Lansky, with Harvey Keitel. It bombed, but making money wasn't the point of it. The point was to continue to sell this fake history. That is job number one of Hollywood.

Also see the 2019 graphic novel Meyer, by a Jewish author selling Lansky as a Jewish hero or mensch.

The author Jonathan Lang forgets to tell you Lansky was just another Hollywood actor, in the easiest of roles since it required no speaking parts. All he had to do is show up and have his picture taken